change/ Professor G. M. Trevelyan had written on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee, 'our Monarchy and the free Parliamentary Constitution of which it is the head still stand erect, and the British Empire still remains amid the crash of other Empires and the destruction of other liberties/ Now that the King whose 25 years on the Throne was then celebrated, had gone, firmness amid the riot of change, and erectness of Monarchy and free Parliamentary Constitution, were less confidently assumed.

VII

King George V's obsequies were accompanied by demonstrations of popular affection even more marked than at his Silver Jubilee celebrations. A continuous procession filed past his coffin when it lay in state in Westminster Hall and dense crowds waited from daybreak, sometimes all night, to see his funeral, and the many foreign notabilities who had come to London to attend it. He was mourned long and ardently, newspapers protracting their grief, as though reluctant to forgo a subject so easy to be sincere about, and lending itself to such eloquent composition, and anxious to take full advantage of a situation they felt might not recur—monarch universally regretted, universally praised.[35]

The new King, Edward VIII, was greeted with the same unanimous approval as had been accorded his father. When he was Prince of Wales, he had been made the object of ceaseless adulation; and though, after his abdication, some claimed to

[35] Previous Hanoverians Lad often been universally execrated, and, until

Queen Victoria, none of them much mourned. 'There never was an indi-
vidual less regretted by his fellow creatures than this deceased king/ *The Times* wrote of George IV. 'What eye has wept for him? What heart has heaved one sob of unmercenary sorrow?'; and the *Spectator* of William IV:
"He had little information and strong prejudices. Though sufficiently con-
ceited and self-willed, he was easily imposed upon and led by the designing.
. . . Notwithstanding his feebleness of mind, his ignorance and his prejudices,
William IV was to the last a popular sovereign, but his very popularity was
acquired at the price of something like public contempt/
(Quoted in *The Magic of Monarchy* by Kingsley Martin.)